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OUNDL E URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH IN OUNDLE IN 1962.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1962.

SUBMITTED BY

Alexander Gatherer, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices,
6 North Street,
Oundle.

OUNDL E URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

Year Ended 31st December, 1962.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report on the health of Oundle during the year 1962.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE:

Medical Officer of Health: J. J. A. Reid, T.D., M.D., B.Sc., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 (until 31st May, 1962),

A. Gatherer, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.
 (from 1st June, 1962).

Surveyor, Water Engineer & Public Health Inspector:

R. E. T. Chinnery, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E., Cert. S.I.B.

District Nurses: Miss L. L. Misson and Miss E. M. Cates.

Health Visitor: Miss K. Pulley.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Population:- Estimated mid-year population - 3,350.

<u>Live births:-</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	24	27
Illegitimate	1	3
	25	30

Live birth rate (corrected):- 22.5 per 1,000 population
 (England and Wales - 18.0).

Illegitimate live births:- 8 per cent of total live births.

Stillbirths:- Nil

Stillbirth rate:- England and Wales - 18.1 per 1,000
 population.

<u>Total live and stillbirths:</u>	25	30
<u>Infant deaths (under 1 year)</u>	2	Nil
<u>Maternal deaths:-</u>		Nil
<u>Total deaths:-</u>	16	34

Death rate (corrected): 9.6 per 1,000 population
 (England and wales - 11.07).

<u>Causes of death:</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Cardiovascular diseases	9	16
Respiratory disease	2	8
Malignant disease	1	7
Other causes	4	3
<u>Total:</u>	16	34

Oundle continues to be a healthy place in which to live. The birth rate is high and the death rate remains below the national average. The illegitimacy rate, which was high last year, was only slightly above average for England and Wales, and in 1962 there were no stillbirths and no maternal deaths to cloud the picture.

It is considered by the World Health Organization that the number of deaths which occur in people over the age of 50 years compared with those under 50 is a good index to the state of health in a modern community. If this is so, Oundle does well, for last year there were 48 deaths over 50 years and only two under that age. It is of course misleading to draw too many conclusions from statistics based on a small population.

The pattern of deaths continues essentially similar to the experience of the past few years. Diseases of the heart and blood vessels, respiratory diseases such as pneumonia, and malignant disease accounted for more than 75% of the deaths last year. The prevention of the effects of advancing years is a problem still beyond the power of medical science.

However, it is tragic to see the delays which occur in this country between the discovery of a preventive action and its full application and acceptance. A current example is, of course, the killer disease of smokers' cancer of the lung. A causative relationship between cigarette smoking and lung cancer was strongly suggested over ten years ago, and even the tremendous support of the most authoritative medical bodies in this country is not yet showing permanent results in persuading smokers of cigarettes to give up or change the habit. The support and example of this and other Councils will play a significant part in the fight against this disease.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Notifications:

Measles	1
Infective Hepatitis	1

There were no outbreaks of note and in fact 1962 was a quiet "non-measles" year.

From July 1962, infective hepatitis became a notifiable disease in the area and there was one case during the remaining months of the year.

IMMUNIZATION:

The following figures have kindly been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Number of immunizations carried out:-

DIPHTHERIA

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Diphtheria Immunization only.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Combined Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	28	4	2	-	-	-	-	34	20
Total Diphtheria Immunizations:	28	4	2	-	-	-	1	35	23
Whooping cough only:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number of Children who have completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunization.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>
Age at 31.12.62, i.e. born in year	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1953- 1957	1948- 1952	under 15
Number immunized	12	27	19	25	35	118	143	379

POLIOMYELITIS

<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>15 & over</u>	<u>Third inj's & oral (all ages)</u>	<u>Fourth inj's and oral (5-11)</u>
8	24	-	1	-	-	1	34	12	90	60

SMALLPOX

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-14</u>	<u>15 or over</u>	<u>Total</u>
Primary	40	4	19	145	230	438
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	9	7	16

It has been an encouraging year as regards immunization, with a rise in the numbers protected against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The continued prevention of poliomyelitis, after the large numbers vaccinated in the past few years, is now largely a matter of ensuring that babies and young children maintain a high level of immunity. Although the disease has apparently retreated, there is little doubt that it could easily return should complacency lead to a lack of enthusiasm for vaccination. A sharp lesson on this subject was provided in 1962 by another infectious disease, smallpox. Its sudden occurrence in other parts of

the country produced a startling demand for vaccination, reflected in the steep rise in the numbers vaccinated. Panic in the face of a dreaded disease was for centuries the typical reaction of the unprepared community, perhaps understandably so in the light of the poor state of knowledge in those days. Today, however, ignorance cannot be blamed and parents must accept that to deny their children the benefit of the undoubted protection afforded by routine immunization is to neglect their welfare and jeopardise their future.

WATER SUPPLY:

The water supply throughout Oundle Urban District has been satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological tests on samples have all been reported as very satisfactory.

FACTORY ACT:

Part I of the Act

1. Inspection by the Public Health Inspector for the purposes of provisions concerning health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspection. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	17	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	1	1	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
Total:-	18	18	-	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found - None.

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) - Nil.

CONCLUDING REMARKS:

The health of any community is dependent on the efforts of many people. I should like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council and to my fellow officers for the encouragement and courtesy I have already received from them; to the general practitioners in Oundle who play such a vital role in the field of preventive as well as curative medicine; and to Mr. R. E. T. Chinnery for his very great support and help. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the cooperation of the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff.

I have the honour to be,
Yours faithfully,

October, 1963.

A. GATHERER, Medical Officer of Health.

O U N D L E U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1962.

SUBMITTED BY

R. E. T. CHINNERY, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,

6 North Street,

OUNDLE,

Nr. Peterborough.

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O U N D L E U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Annual Report of the Surveyor and Public Health
Inspector for the Year ended 31st December, 1962.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Fifth Annual Report upon Sanitary Conditions in the Urban District, and a summary of the public health work carried out in my department during the year under review.

1. Water Supplies.

The supply and distribution of water at adequate pressure and of a very good standard of purity was maintained throughout the year; it was, however, found necessary to impose restrictions upon the use of water from hoses during the summer months, and these restrictions are still in force today.

No extensions of water mains were necessary during the year.

Samples of water were taken from the mains at varying points in the town and from the Barnwell Road Pumping Station, and all Bacteriological Reports upon these samples were 'Very Satisfactory'. Frequent checks were also made of the residual chlorine content of the water following the sand filtration and chlorination treatment of the water at the works, in order to insure the sterility of water supplied to consumers.

Nene and Ouse Water Board.

The Board became operative as from the 1st April, 1962, but in order to enable the Board to assemble staff and gradually build up the administration of its wide area, the Urban District Council agreed to continue to operate the water undertaking as agent for the Board. This was still the position at the end of the year.

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The new sewage disposal works were completed and came into operation in November, 1962, and at the end of the year the laying of certain new lengths of sewer was well under way, with the completion of the scheme in sight.

The closing of the Brewery of Smith & Co. (Oundle) Ltd. during the year was a grave blow to the prosperity of Oundle, resulting in a decrease of local employment and a loss of rateable value to the Council: it did, however, have the effect of decreasing the flow of trade effluent sewage to the new disposal works with the result that there is some reserve capacity for future development.

3. Housing.

(a). Provision of New Houses by Local Authority.

The first stage of the Inkerman Yard - re-named Inkerman Way - re-development scheme, consisting of ten Old Persons' Bungalows, was completed during the year. This was the Council's first contribution to the housing problem of old people and the re-action of the occupants of the bungalows which are extremely well designed and well equipped is very favourable; the situation is of course a factor, being close to the shops in West Street, and with road access at the other end of the site to Milton Road, a quiet back road.

At the end of the year commencement of stage two of this scheme, three additional Old Persons' Bungalows in the adjoining Victoria Yard, and stage three, a terrace of four two-bedroomed houses on the frontage to West Street were well in hand. By arrangement with the County Council, West Street will be widened along the frontage and the footpath set back to form a lay-by which will contribute both to the appearance of the frontage and to road safety.

(b) Private Development.

Fourteen houses were completed by private owners as against fifteen the previous year. The difficulty of prospective builders in finding sites for houses has been referred to in previous reports and during the year the Council carried further their scheme to open up an excellent building site of about 12½ acres off the Cotterstock Road by providing roads, sewers and arranging for the provision of other public services and making building plots available for individual purchasers to build upon. Fifty plots will be available and it is hoped that the Council's enterprise will be justified by the success of the scheme.

(c) Unfit Houses.

During the year, ten unfit houses were demolished under the Demolition Order procedure of the Housing Acts. Closing Orders were made in respect of eight others.

The Council's Slum Clearance Programme originally submitted to the Ministry is now substantially completed. Nevertheless, there remain a number of old houses in Oundle, mainly of the small cottage type, which do not lend themselves to modernisation, which, as the general standard of housing accommodation continues to rise, will fall to be dealt with either under Demolition or Clearance Order procedure. Slum Clearance programmes can never be regarded as finished; it must be a continuous process of improvement or demolition and renewal throughout the year. Oundle has a high proportion of the type of dwelling referred to, so that a great deal of work in this direction will inevitably arise.

(d) Grants for Conversion of Improvements.

Eight Improvement (Discretionary) Grants and eleven grants for the provision of Standard Amenities were approved during the year. This represents an improvement on the previous year when a total of fourteen grants were approved.

There still remains much scope in Oundle for owners of property to take advantage of these provisions. Most of the grants made are in respect of owner-occupied properties and owners of tenanted houses are obviously reluctant to improve their property voluntarily; a case could be made for additional powers to be given to local authorities to enforce a minimum standard of comfort and amenity in suitable houses. Only in this way, it would appear, will any real progress be made in securing the general provision of hot water systems, baths, internal W.Cs., wash basins etc. in tenanted properties.

4. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A regular weekly collection of house refuse was maintained throughout the year, with more frequent collections from the several school boarding houses and other premises. A special waste paper and cardboard collection from retail shops is also made weekly, and although during the year the income received from the sale of this material collected from the shops and from private houses during the normal refuse collection decreased owing to the low level of prices paid by the Paper Mills, the income received helps to offset the cost of the service.

The operation of the Council's controlled tip for the disposal of refuse continues to be operated in a proper manner; the only concern here arises from the fact that with the ever-increasing amount of refuse collected each year, the available tipping space is rapidly being used, and within a few years an alternative site will have to be found.

5. Public Conveniences.

These have been maintained to as high a standard as the users will permit. In spite of regular daily attendance, damage to coin locks, fixtures and fittings continues, as does the disfigurement

of walls and ceilings with crude drawings and writings. Following repeated damage to water service pipes, all possible pipework was removed from the interior of the conveniences and measures such as this seem essential in order to minimise the opportunity to cause damage.

6. Cemetery and Churchyard.

Both were maintained to a satisfactory standard during the year.

7. Slaughterhouses, Food Inspection.

There are no licenced Slaughterhouses in the Urban District. Visits are paid to food premises, particularly in the summer months, and the co-operation of food traders generally is appreciated in maintaining a high standard of hygiene generally.

During the year the following amounts of unsound food were submitted voluntarily:-

28 lbs. fish.
138 lbs. tinned fruit.
40 lbs. beef.
10 lbs. tinned ham.
54 lbs. tinned jam.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Northants County Council, for details of the under-mentioned samples taken in Oundle by his department.

Milk	16.
Dairy products.	3.
Pork sausages.	1.
Soft drinks.	2.
Lemon curd.	1.
Bough syrup.	1.
Sausage rolls.	1.
Strawberries.	<u>1.</u>

TOTAL: 26.

All these samples taken in the Urban District were completely satisfactory.

8. Disinfection, Disinfestation.

No terminal disinfection after Infectious Disease was necessary.

The arrangements by which one of the Council's outside staff, who has received special training, undertakes the destruction of rodents continued to work efficiently. All public properties are kept clear of infestation, private houses and gardens are dealt with free, while a charge is made in respect of treatment at trade premises. An agreement was made with Oundle School under which the Council now undertake, on a fixed payment basis, to deal with all infestations on School properties.

10. General.

This Report can only touch briefly upon those important aspects of the Council's work required to be reported annually or of special interest. Detailed statistice or financial details are not included as those have been furnished to the Council at the appropriate time; the compiling of them for this Report would place a severe strain upon the small office staff.

The year has seemed a busy one, and one in which I hope the Council feel that reasonable progress was made with work and projects in hand.

Once again I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Council, the Chairmen of Committees, and to all the other Members of the Council for their continued support and helpfulness during the year.

My thanks are also due to the Council's workmen under my control, for a good year's work done, very often under bad weather conditions when certain work, particularly refuse collection, has to be done just the same.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
R. E. T. CHINNERY,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.